

### Conditions for Life Saving Drug

3380. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to relax the conditions for life saving drugs for cancer and AIDS in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) Customs Duty Execution certificates are issued for life saving drugs only to individual patients recommended by the treating physicians. The Drugs Controller (India) in consultation with experts gives maximum priority on registration of new anti-cancer and new anti-AIDS drugs and such applications are cleared in minimum time for approvals under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder.

[Translation]

### Electronics and Information Technology Industry

3381. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the electronics and information technology industry is likely to be accorded the status of infrastructural industry;

(b) whether the working group of the Ninth Five Year Plan has given its recommendations in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) The Working Group on Electronics Industry set up for IX Plan by the Planning Commission has, inter-alia, recommended that the Electronics and Information Technology industry should be classified as a basic growth 'infrastructure' industry.

(d) Action on the recommendation of the Working Group has been initiated.

### Funds for Development of Hilly Areas

3382. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have decided to provide funds to nine hilly districts (Uttanchal) of Uttar Pradesh at par with Himachal Pradesh for the development of hilly area;

(b) whether Planning Commission has allocated the funds at par with Himachal Pradesh for the development of Uttanchal during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (d) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for this purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States in this regard through the modified Gadgil formula for distribution of Central Assistance and Special Area Programmes. The Hill districts of Uttar Pradesh receive Special Central Assistance under Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) while Himachal Pradesh is a Special Category state and is given suitable weightage in the distribution of Central Assistance. The finalisation of sectoral strategies and allocation for the Ninth Five Year Plan is currently underway in Planning Commission. However, efforts have been made in past to increase the assistance for hill areas of Uttar Pradesh on the basis of requests received from State Government and other quarters. An additional amount of Rs. 7.93 crore as Special Central Assistance has been made available to Uttar Pradesh for hill regions for each year from 1994-95 to 1996-97. Further, during 1995-96, additional assistance of Rs. 10 crore was made available for irrigation facilities in the hill areas of U.P. and an amount of Rs. 5 crore was made available for improvement of Rishikesh-Badrinath road.

### Uranium Mining

3383. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problem of radio-activity arisen due to uranium mining in Jaduguda of eastern Singhbhum district of Bihar;

(b) whether the local residents/tribals are being affected by eye disease, handicappedness of children and cancer as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the norms laid down for radio activity in the said mining work are being followed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) The standards of safety in the mining and milling of uranium in Jaduguda

are specified by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) which also monitors and regulates its implementation. The radiation and environmental monitoring programmes reviewed by AERB and its safety committees has clearly shown that the safety of workers, the public and the environment is adequately ensured at the uranium mine and mills from the point of view of radiation and environment factors. In view of this, any incidence of eye diseases, handicap to children and cancer in the area cannot be attributed to mining activities of Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL).

(d) The standards of permissible radioactive releases prescribed by AERB are complied with by UCIL which operates the mines and mills.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

### **Titanium Industry**

3384. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received by the Government for permitting foreign companies to enter into the Titanium Industry and also in the field of ilmenite mining in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal with the Government for permitting foreign companies to enter into the titanium industry and in the field of ilmenite mining in Kerala.

### **Renovation of Offices/Residences of Ministers**

3385. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any ceiling on expenditure for renovation, addition and alteration of Government bungalows;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on renovation, addition and alteration of office and residence of each Minister during the last five year, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Annual monetary ceiling type-wise of the quarters/flats is given below :-

| Type of Qtr./flats | Monetary ceiling (Rs.) |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| C-I, C-II          | 21000                  |
| VII, VIII          | 31500                  |

(ii) Monetary ceiling in Government residences during the tenure of Ministers/MPs/Judges is as under :-

| Category  | Monetary ceiling (Rs.) |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Ministers | 100000                 |
| Judges    | 50000                  |
| M.Ps      | 30000                  |

(c) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### **Tea Workers**

3386. SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of pathetic conditions of labourers of sick and abandoned tea gardens in Assam; and

(b) if so, the specific measures being taken to rehabilitate such labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### **Arms Supply**

3387. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Russia has assured India that it will not sell arms to Pakistan;

(b) whether this guarantee is based on the fact that India is a major customer of Russian arms;

(c) whether Russia is unhappy for the delay on part of India in taking a decision on Russian offer of modern tanks;

(d) whether the absence of Indian orders may compel Russia to supply vital components to Ukraine which may supply the same to Islamabad in a tank deal; and

(e) the Government's reaction to the Russian offer of tanks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.